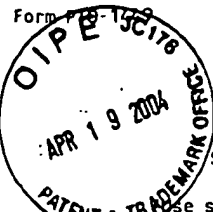


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| Form PTO-1449  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 678-529 | SERIAL NO. 09/677,085 |
| | INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | |
| | FILING DATE September 29, 2000 | | GROUP ART UNIT 2664 |

(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS



| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
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

APR 20 2004

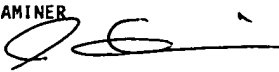
Technology Center 2600

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
|  | | WO 97/26742 | 7/24/1997 | PCT | | | X | |
|  | | JP 6-504176 | 5/12/1994 | Japan | | | X | |
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OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
|  | | 1. | Japanese Office Action dated March 23, 2004 issued in a counterpart application, namely, Appln. No. 2001-527474. |
|  | | 2. | Proceedings of the 1998 IEICE General Conference, March 1998. |
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| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED 2-17-05 |
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.